



# NCTC Youth Conservation Corps

## Frequently Asked Questions



**How do I get to the National Conservation Training Center?** The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is located at **698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV**, which is off of Shepherd Grade Road, 3.3 miles west of the Bavarian Inn. Mapping web sites have a difficult time locating NCTC using our mailing address. However, Google Maps will show you how to get to the NCTC entrance via **100 Col Shepherd Rd, Shepherdstown, WV 25443, USA**. Enter this email address: <http://nctc.fws.gov/meet/images/dir2.jpg> in your internet browser to get a map of the Shepherdstown area.

**What is the work schedule?** From June 11 to August 3, 2012; Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. except Independence Day. There may be an overnight trip during the work period.

**When are applications due?** Applications must be postmarked by or received at NCTC by 6 p.m. on April 16 to be considered. Any applications received after that will not be considered.

**If I worked on a NCTC YCC Crew in the past, can I work on the NCTC YCC Crew this summer?** Youth who have worked on a NCTC YCC Crew in the past cannot be hired again for another summer of work, with two exceptions: 1) They are selected as the Crew Leader, or 2) in situations where there are insufficient applications for enrollee positions, previous YCC crew members may be hired again for another summer. However, they may not be employed until after all first year applicants and alternates have been contacted and offered employment. If you are interested in the Crew Leader position, please indicate that on your application.

**How soon will I find out if I am selected?** Those selected or who are on the back-up list will be contacted by April 30, 2012. Those not selected will be notified by Monday, May 14.

**Will I be the only male or female on the YCC Crew?** Three males and three females will be hired as Crew Members. One male or female might be hired as the Crew Leader.

**How are youth selected for the YCC Crew?** The selection process for crew members will be conducted in a public forum by a random method. More selections will be drawn than slots available in order to assure a sufficient number of enrollees in case of declination or dropouts. After selection, enrollees will be notified and given the opportunity to accept or decline. This will be done based on the order of drawing. No criteria will be utilized for enrollee selection other than age and fitness for work. Selection for the YCC Crew Leader will be done by the hiring official and YCC Program Coordinator based on leadership ability.

**Do members of the YCC Crew get holiday pay and/or vacation pay?** YCC Crew Members will not work on Independence Day (Wednesday, July 4, 2012) but will receive holiday pay (for eight regular hours) for the holiday. Crew Members will not receive pay for vacation days or days not worked.

**Does the YCC Crew work outside when it is very hot or when it is raining?** The location of the work (outside or inside) for each day's work will be determined each morning based on the current and expected weather conditions. Each crew member should report to work each morning expecting to work outside, but if weather conditions warrant it (high heat and high humidity, thunderstorms and lightning, other severe weather), work will be performed inside until conditions improve.

**What type of outdoor work will we be doing?** Projects include improving and maintaining hiking trails, tending native plant landscaping, maintaining boundary lines, controlling invasive, non-native plants, growing new plants, removing old farm fences, caring for young trees in reforestation sites, and similar work in fields and forests. There will also be recreational and education activities included with the work.

**How hard is the work?** It will be physically demanding work but it will be fun. Most of the work and activities will be outdoors in typical summer weather – hot, humid and buggy. Crew members must be physically fit and have a good work attitude! You will be digging, raking, cutting and pulling for hours at a time. Expect to work hard and to give it your all. However, you may have an experience you will treasure forever!

**Will the work be at NCTC all of the time?** There will be days when the YCC Crew will go on Service field trips to other public lands in the region for the day. Usually the morning will consist of traveling to the site, then doing a work service project. The afternoon will consist of a tour of the site and an education activity, travelling back to NCTC for dismissal from work during regular work hours. There might also be one overnight trip.

**Are there ticks and poison ivy at NCTC?** Poison ivy is found here, but is not very common. The tick population has been low the last few years, but can change. If one is careful, one can significantly reduce their chance of exposure to these and other environmental hazards.

**When is the orientation?** The orientation for the youth and their parent(s) or guardian (s) will be on Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at NCTC. At the orientation, work rules, safety guidelines, and the career and educational opportunities will be discussed. Further details about the orientation will be provided if you are selected for a position.

**What will I wear on the job?** Each participant is required to report to work each morning in clean blue jeans, their YCC t-shirt, and their own leather work boots. YCC T-shirts, one YCC uniform shirt, one YCC hat, as well as all tools and safety gear needed will be provided to each participant.